#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

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TOBIAN JOHNSON  Plaintiff	S Case No. 3-12CV-4506M
vs	§
	§ Judge
ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.	§
CHRISTOPHER D. OSBORN	§
JOSEPH M. O'BELL	§ TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED
Defendants	\$ \$
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#### COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF FCRA AND FDCPA

#### **JURISDICTION**

- This court has jurisdiction under 15 U.S.C. § 1681p, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq., and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.
- 2. All conditions precedent to the bringing of this action have been performed.

#### **PARTIES**

- The Plaintiff in this lawsuit is Tobian Johnson, a natural person, who resides in Dallas County, Texas.
- 4. The plaintiff is a consumer as defined by the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. 1692a(3), FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c), Texas Business and Commerce Code § 17.50(a)(1) and Texas Finance Code § 392.001(1).
- 5. Defendant ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. (hereinafter ZWICKER) is a debt collection law firm with offices at 321 N. Main Street Taylor, TX 76574.

- 6. ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. is a law firm who at all relevant times was engaged, by the use of the mail and telephone in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiffs, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(6).
- 7. ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.
- 8. Christopher D. Osborn (hereinafter Osborn) is an attorney employed by ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. located at 321 N. Main Street Taylor, TX 76574 is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(2) who at all relevant times was engaged, by the use of the mail and telephone in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiffs, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(6).
- 9. Osborn uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.
- 10. Defendant Joseph M. O'Bell (hereinafter O'Bell) is an attorney employed by ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. located at 321 N. Main Street Taylor, TX 76574 is a "debt collector" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6) and by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(2) who at all relevant times was engaged, by the use of the mail and telephone in the business of attempting to collect a "debt" from Plaintiffs, as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5) and by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(6).

11. O'Bell uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.

#### **VENUE**

- 12. The occurrences which give rise to this action occurred in Dallas County, Texas and Plaintiff resides in Dallas County, Texas.
- 13. Venue is proper in the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 14. Plaintiff is a natural person obligated, or allegedly obligated, to pay a debt owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than the Defendants.
- 15. Plaintiff's obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than Defendants, arises from a transaction in which the money, property, insurance, or services that are the subject of the transaction were incurred primarily for personal, family, or household purposes and Plaintiff incurred the obligation, or alleged obligation, owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due a creditor other than the Defendants.
- 16. Defendants use instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in a business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, and/or regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due, or asserted to be owed or due another.
- 17. On or about December 19, 2012, Plaintiff was served with a summons for a lawsuit signed by Osborn representing Zwicker who was allegedly representing American Express Bank

- FSB in the County Court at law No. 1 of Dallas County, Texas case# 11-07906-A. The suit was an attempt to collect for an alleged debt in the amount of \$3,415.65 said to be owed to American Express Bank FSB.
- 18. Plaintiff answered the lawsuit and denied all allegations.
- 19. On or about May 30, 2012 Defendant O'Bell representing Zwicker filed a Motion for Summary Judgment. Plaintiff answered with his Memorandum in Opposition to Summary Judgment along with an affidavit within a timely manner.
- 20. On June 19, 2012 Plaintiff filed a Motion to strike American Express Bank FSB's Affidavit along with a Motion to Challenge Zwicker's Authority to Represent American Express Bank FSB under TRCP Rule 12. The court set a hearing for the Motion to Strike Affidavit and Motion to Challenge Zwicker's Authority to Represent American Express bank FSB on July 25, 2012.
- 21. On July 25, 2012, the evidence that was presented by the Defendants in an attempt to collect an alleged consumer debt was stricken from the record. Defendants O'Bell, Osborn and Zwicker did not have so much as a shred of evidence to show that they were truly representing American Express Bank FSB as they had represented to the Court. The Court gave the defendants 7 days to present evidence to show that they had Authorization to represent American Express Bank FSB.
- 22. On July 31, 2012 Defendants dismissed the case.
- 23. The actions taken by the Defendants attempting to collect an alleged debt and not having the authority to represent American Express Bank FSB is the use of a false representation or deceptive means to collect or attempt to collect the debt and is a violation of 15 U.S.C.§1692e(10), and Tex. Fin. Code § 392.304(a)8.

- 24. The Defendants attempting to collect an alleged debt in the amount of \$3415.65 is a deceptive practice as well as a false representation of the amount of an alleged debt, and constituted an unfair and unconscionable means being employed to collect a debt alleged to be owed by the Plaintiffs and is a violation of 15 U.S.C.§ 1692e(2), § 1692f, Tex. Fin. Code § 392.303(a)2, and Tex. Fin Code § 392.304(a)8.
- 25. Plaintiff obtained his consumer credit reports from the three major credit reporting agencies and found entries by entities that he was unfamiliar with in the reports.
- 26. Plaintiff found after examination of his Experian consumer credit report that Defendant ZWICKER had obtained Plaintiff's Experian consumer credit report on February 2, 2011.
- 27. Plaintiff found after examination of his TransUnion consumer credit report that Defendant ZWICKER had obtained Plaintiff's Trans Union consumer credit report on February 3, 2011.
- 28. All violations alleged herein are within the statute of limitations of the applicable statutes.
- 29. Plaintiff denies having an account or owing any balance to AMERICAN EXPRESS BANK, FSB or ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

#### **COUNT I**

#### VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (FDCPA) 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) BY DEFENDANTS ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C., CHRISTOPHER D. OSBORN, AND JOSEPH M. O'BELL.

- 30. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 31. Plaintiff is a consumer within the meaning of the FDCPA § 1692a(3).
- 32. ZWICKER is a debt collector within the meaning of the FDCPA 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 33. Osborn is a debt collector within the meaning of the FDCPA §1692a(6).

34. Defendants, as debt collectors, violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(10) by filing a lawsuit against the Plaintiff, who is a consumer, attempting to collect an alleged debt when Defendants had no evidence to show authority to represent American Express Bank, FSB.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a. Adjudging that the Defendants violated the FDCPA.
- b. Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k in the amount of \$1,000 per Defendant;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff any attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.
- d. Awarding Plaintiff any post judgment interest as may be applicable under the law.
- e. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### **COUNT II**

### VIOLATIONS OF THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (FDCPA) 15 U.S.C. § 1692g(b) and § 1692f BY DEFENDANTS ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. AND JOSEPH M. O'BELL.

- 35. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 36. Plaintiff is a consumer within the meaning of the FDCPA § 1692a(3).
- 37. ZWICKER is a debt collector within the meaning of the FDCPA 15 U.S.C. §1692a(6).
- 38. O'Bell is a debt collector within the meaning of the FDCPA §1692a(6).
- 39. Defendants, and O'Bell, acting as debt collectors, violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(2) and 15 U.S.C. § 1692f by attempting to obtain a summary judgment against the Plaintiff, who is a consumer, when Defendants had had no evidence to substantiate that the amount of

\$3415.65 alleged to be owed was true and correct or that they did, in fact represent American Express Bank FSB..

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a. Adjudging that the Defendants violated FDCPA.
- b. Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k in the amount of \$1,000 per Defendant;
- c. Awarding Plaintiff any attorney's fees and cost incurred in this action.
- d. Awarding Plaintiff any pre-judgment and post judgment interest as may be under the law.
- e. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### **COUNT III**

# VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT (TDCPA) BY DEFENDANTS ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C., CHRISTOPHER D. OSBORN AND JOSEPH M. O'BELL.

- 40. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 41. Defendants violated the Texas Debt Collection Practices Act in one or more of the following ways:
  - a. Collecting or attempting to collect interest or a charge, fee, or expense incidental to the obligation unless the interest or incidental charge, fee, or expense is expressly authorized by the agreement creating the obligation or legally chargeable to the consumer pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code § 392.303(a)2.

b. Misrepresenting the character, extent, or amount of a consumer debt, or misrepresenting the consumer debt's status in a judicial or governmental proceeding pursuant to Tex. Fin Code § 392.304(a)8

WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for relief and judgment, as follows:

- a) Adjudging the defendants violated the TDCPA
- b) Awarding Plaintiff statutory damages pursuant to the TDCPA;
- c) Awarding Plaintiff any attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action;
- d) Awarding Plaintiff any post judgment interest as may be allowed under the law;
- e) Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### **COUNT IV**

# VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT (DTPA) BY DEFENDANTS ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C., CHRISTOPHER D. OSBORN AND JOSEPH M. O'BELL

- 42. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 43. A violation of the Texas Debt Collection Practices Act is a deceptive trade practice under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and is actionable under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Tex. Fin. Code. Ann. § 392.404(a).
- 44. Defendants violated Tex. Bus. Com. Code § 17.50(h).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief and judgment as follows:

- a. Adjudging that Defendants violated the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, Tex.Bus. Com. Code, Chapter 17, Subchapter E;
- b. Awarding Plaintiffs actual damages, pursuant to Tex. Bus. Com. Code § 17.50(h);

- c. Awarding Plaintiffs three times actual damages, pursuant to Tex. Bus. Com. Code § 17.50(h);
- d. Awarding Plaintiffs any attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action;
- e. Awarding Plaintiffs any post-judgment interest as may be allowed under the law;
- f. Awarding such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

#### **COUNT V**

## VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT, 15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., WILLFUL NON-COMPLIANCE BY ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

- 45. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 46. Plaintiff is a consumer within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c).
- 47. Experian is a credit reporting agency within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f).
- 48. Consumer credit report is a consumer report within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d).
- 49. The FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b defines the permissible purposes for which a person may obtain a consumer credit report.
- 50. Such permissible purposes as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681b are generally, if the consumer makes application for credit, makes application for employment, for underwriting of insurance involving the consumer, or is offered a bona fide offer of credit as a result of the inquiry.
- 51. Plaintiff has never had any business dealings or any accounts with, made application for credit from, made application for employment with, applied for insurance from, or received a bona fide offer of credit from the Defendant ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

- 52. On February 2, 2011 Defendant obtained the Experian consumer credit report for the Plaintiff with no permissible purpose in violation of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b.
- 53. At no time did Plaintiff give his consent for ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. to acquire his consumer credit report from any credit reporting agency.
- 54. The actions of Defendant obtaining the consumer credit report of the Plaintiff with no permissible purpose or Plaintiff's consent was a willful violation of FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b and an egregious violation of Plaintiff's right to privacy.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant, ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. for statutory damages of \$1000.00, any attorney's fees, and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n.

#### **COUNT VI**

## VIOLATION OF THE FAIR CREDIT REPORTING ACT, 15 U.S.C. §1681 et seq., WILLFUL NON-COMPLIANCE BY DEFENDANT ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

- 55. The Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 56. Plaintiff is a consumer within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(c).
- 57. Trans Union is a credit reporting agency within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(f).
- 58. Consumer credit report is a consumer report within the meaning of the FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681a(d).
- 59. The FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b defines the permissible purposes for which a person may obtain a consumer credit report.

- 60. Such permissible purposes as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1681b are generally, if the consumer makes application for credit, makes application for employment, for underwriting of insurance involving the consumer, or is offered a bona fide offer of credit as a result of the inquiry.
- 61. Plaintiff has never had any business dealings or any accounts with, made application for credit from, made application for employment with, applied for insurance from, or received a bona fide offer of credit from the Defendant ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
- 62. At no time did Plaintiff give his consent for Defendants ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. to acquire his consumer credit report from any credit reporting agency.
- 63. On February 3, 2011 Defendant ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. obtained the Trans

  Union consumer credit report for the Plaintiff with no permissible purpose in violation of the

  FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b.
- 64. The actions of Defendant obtaining the consumer credit report of the Plaintiff with no permissible purpose or Plaintiff's consent was a willful violation of FCRA, 15 U.S.C. § 1681b and an egregious violation of Plaintiff's right to privacy.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment for damages against Defendant,

ZWICKER & ASSOCIATES, P.C. for statutory damages of \$1000.00, any attorney's fees,
and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1681n

#### **DEMAND FOR TRIAL BY JURY**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all issues so triable as a matter of law.

Dated: November 8, 2012

Respectfully Submitted,

Tobian Johnson

604 Abbott Ave Desoto, Texas 75115

214-878-2135

Case 3-12-0y-04506-M-BN Socument & Filed 11/08/13 CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil coversheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in Sentember 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Tobian Johnson  (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Dallas  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			DEFENDANTS Zwicker & Associates, P.C., eg al  County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Williamson (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.			
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X"	in One Box Only)	III. CITIZENSHIP (	OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff)	
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	✓ 3 Federal Question  (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)	(For Diversity Cases of Citizen of This State	Only)  PTF DEF  X 1 X 1 Incorporated or Pr  of Business In Thi		
2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenshi	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	☐ 2 ☐ 2 Incorporated and I of Business In A	-	
			Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	□ 3 □ 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT						
CONTRACT  110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY    310 Airplane   315 Airplane Product	PERSONAL INJURY  365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  PERSONAL PROPER  370 Other Fraud  371 Truth in Lending  380 Other Personal Property Damage Product Liability  PRISONER PETITION  510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: 530 General 535 Death Penalty 540 Mandamus & Oth 550 Civil Rights  555 Prison Condition	of Property 21 USC  of Property 21 USC  for 690 Other  LABOR  TY 710 Fair Labor Standard Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relati 740 Railway Labor Act 151 Family and Medical Leave Act 790 Other Labor Litigati 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION  or 462 Naturalization Appl 463 Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee	1 422 Appeal 28 USC 158   28 USC 157   423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157   PROPERTY RIGHTS   820 Copyrights   830 Patent   840 Trademark   840 Trademark   861 HIA (1395ff)   862 Black Lung (923)   863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))   864 SSID Title XVI   865 RSI (405(g))   870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)   871 IRS.—Third Party 26 USC 7609	OTHER STATUTES  ☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
ONICH	Other  448 Education	Conditions of Confinement	(Prisoner Petition)  3 465 Other Immigration Actions			
🔰 1 Original 🔲 2 Rei		Remanded from Appellate Court	4 Reinstated or 🗇 5	Transferred from another district (specify)   Grant Transferred from Cartesian Cartesi	ict	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	1 15 11 5 0 8 169	31p, 15 U.S.C. § 16 iuse:	e filing <i>(Do not cite jurisdictio</i> 92, et seq., and 28 U.S	nal statutes unless diversity): S.C § 1331		
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	☐ CHECK IF THIS UNDER F.R.C.P.	IS A CLASS ACTION 23	DEMAND \$ 5,500.00	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASE PENDING OR CLOS	(See instructions)	JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	٠	
DATE		SIGNATURE OF ATT	TORNEY OF RECORD			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY						
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUD	GE MAG. JUI	OGE	